

# Otford Parish Council

## July/August Newsletter 2004

### No 125

Kent and South & South East England  
Village of the Year 2002  
Clerk: Mrs. B.J. Darby  
The School House, 21, High Street, Otford,  
Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PG  
Telephone/answerphone: 01959 524808  
Fax: 01959 525298  
[otfordpc@btinternet.com](mailto:otfordpc@btinternet.com)  
Office hours 8.30 to 12.30 Mon to Fri

### Transit of Venus



The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to David Thomas and his wife Audrey who gave up their time to stand out on the Recreation Ground on a very hot day with his telescope so that residents could witness the transit of Venus. Thanks also to Otford Primary School for allowing its pupils to come out and be part of the event, with over 200 pupils it kept David very busy!

### Top Draw

**TOP DRAW** - The Otford Primary Draw. Your chance to win cash prizes and raise money for your local school.

The winning numbers of the first TOP Draw are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £50 - 208
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 - 100
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 - 240

Congratulations to the first winners and thank you to everyone who supported the school. Don't forget forms are still available from the School office, Parish Council, the Chemist and Post Office for those who would like to take part.

### Otford Village Fete

"The Otford Fete Committee would like to thank everyone who attended the recent village fete and made it such a successful day. There was a real carnival atmosphere with all attractions proving popular. We estimate that there were over 7,000 visitors and in excess of £8,000 was raised. This money will be distributed back into the village via worthy causes. So village society or individuals who would like to know more can contact Mark Stevens on

01959 523881. All requests will be considered. The Fete Committee is a voluntary group, always on the look out for new members with fresh ideas. Once again please contact Mark for more information. We trust villagers had an enjoyable day because this is ultimately why such a big effort is made."

### Police Surgery



The next Police Surgery will take place on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September** and PC Jackie Allen will again be joined by Lorraine Chapman from West Kent Housing. So if you have any concerns please come and see them between 10am and 12 noon.

### Otford Brownies

Otford Brownies are urgently looking for new leaders. Are there any people who would like to have fun and lead or help for a few hours a week with girls aged 7-10yrs? This could be two or more friends or possibly someone with previous connections with Girl guiding. Full support and friendship from local Guiders will be given. If you are able to help, please contact Caroline Scales on 01959 523200.

### Youth Van/ Skateboard Park



- ✓ Date: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August
- ✓ Time: 11am - 3.30pm
- ✓ Place: Hale Lane Recreation ground, Otford
- ✓ Event: Youth Van and Mobile Skatepark

**Details:** The Sevenoaks District Council Youth Van is visiting Hale Lane and offering FREE activities for young people aged 8 and above including Drama Workshops by the Sevenoaks Playhouse, Circus skills, Arts and Crafts, Face Painting, Team Games and Sports.

An extra attraction this year is a Baseline Mobile Skatepark, which will be there for you to practice your skills. (Skaters under 16yrs must get a permission form signed by Parent or Guardian - get one on the day or go to: [www.baseline-promotions.co.uk](http://www.baseline-promotions.co.uk)). Please bring a packed lunch if you are going to stay all day. The Parish Council will be providing squash and biscuits. Children aged under 8yrs must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. For details of further Summer Holiday activities please contact SDC.

### Road Closure- Please Note

Pilgrims Way West between the junctions of Twitton Lane and Filston Lane will be closed from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August for approx 2 weeks to allow South East Water to carry out works. The alternative route will be via Twitton Lane and Filston Lane. Please drive slowly and patiently through Twitton. Thank you.

### Wind in the Willows

This outdoor production in the Primary School playing fields was a great success with an audience of around 200. The weather stayed fine and the PTA sold lots of refreshments. Thank you to all the helpers. The next Applause productions in the Memorial Hall will be on Saturdays 25<sup>th</sup> September 2004 and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005 - make a date in your diary now!

### Green Garden Refuse Bags

Following a grant from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Sevenoaks District Council has been able to reduce the cost of a roll of 10 green garden sacks to only £3. As part of this grant however, Defra requires that the District Council begin to use paper garden refuse sacks, as they are compostable with the garden waste. You can obtain them from the District Council or from the Parish Council office on weekday mornings.

### Otford Methodist Church

Join us for an informal Café evening on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August from 6.30pm-8.00pm at Otford Methodist Church. Coffee, cold drinks and cakes will be served throughout the evening and we will explore the theme 'Holidays and Holy Days' - bring a postcard or picture of a holiday if you wish. (More details from Kath Pawlett on 01959 522196.

### Otford Gardeners' Society

The next lecture will take place in the Otford Memorial Hall on Tuesday 7th September at 8pm when Brian Doe will be talking on 'Beyond the Wire - a judges view of the Prison Gardens of Great Britain' Admission is 50p for members and £1 for non-members.

Then on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September they will be presenting their Autumn Flower and Craft Show - featuring fruit and vegetable classes as well as Chrysanthemums, Dahlias and other summer flowers. Also flower arrangements, cookery, handicraft, photographic and junior classes.

### Collect your bottle tops

An 8 yr old resident is asking for people to collect plastic bottle tops, which will be used for the

purchase of a wheelchair. If you can help, when you have collected a lot please deliver them to 22 Telston Lane, Otford. Many thanks.

### Embroiders' Guild

At the next meeting of The Embroiders' Guild (Sevenoaks Branch), on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July, the SE Region chairman Annette Collinge will be bringing us up to date with the development of the new National Embroidery Centre. This meeting will begin at 2pm and be held in the Club Room of the Village hall. After the summer break the next meeting will be on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information please phone Barbara Savager on 01959 523484.

### Florum 2004

This is an annual exhibition of Botanical Art, Flowers, Gardens and Landscapes held at The Jeffrey Harrison Reserve, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks from Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10am to 4pm (Sunday 10am to 1pm) Admission is FREE. Some 300 paintings will be on view and for sale, representing the work of 50 artists, including members of The Society of Botanical Artists and holders of medals awarded by The Royal Horticultural Society. In support of the Jeffrey Harrison Reserve.

### Otford & District Historical Society

The final Historical Society Summer Outing this year takes place on: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September with a half day trip to Hall Place, Bexley

There will be a guided tour of this fine black & white mansion, recently restored by the local authority. The estate, on the River Cray, has been in existence since at least Norman times, its name deriving from the Atte-Hall family, its early owners. Despite its proximity to the M2 motorway, it has interesting gardens including a fine rockery. A cream tea is included. Total cost £15.75 per head

For more details and bookings please contact 01959 522384.

### Otford Allotments Association

The Allotment Association are delighted to welcome their newest and youngest ever tenant, 16 year old Darren Payne, who is a keen gardener and in fact will be attending Hadlow College in September to study Countryside Management. He waited for the right plot to come along and is now busy cultivating it. You can go and see what he has achieved on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August, Allotment Association Open Day, starting at 10am and have a guided tour around to see the achievements of other ploholders as well. Annual Judging for the best plots will be taking place this

month, so you will be able to see the who, where and why these winners were selected if you come on Open Day - don't miss it! Teas will be served in the afternoon and to help raise funds for the new allotment shed a Special Newsletter will be available to buy, which will include the history of the allotment movement.

If you can't wait to get involved yourself, plots do become available every now and again, so why not give Barbara Hine a ring (01959 525468) or call into the Parish Office on any weekday morning and have your own personal tour of the allotment site.

### Picture of the Month

The artist for July - August is Betty Medhurst. Betty came to Otford in 1960. She gave up painting on leaving school and decided, only recently to start again by joining the Otford Art Group. She therefore calls herself 'only a starter'. She is beginning to experiment with watercolours and acrylics but has not, as yet, 'advanced, to oils.

### Front Garden Competition

Otford Parish Council's Front Garden Competition will again take place this year. Committee members of the Otford Gardeners' Society will be looking at front gardens during July and August and presentation of the Parish Cup will take place at the Autumn Flower and Craft Show of the Gardeners' Society on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### Autumn Swimming Lessons

#### Place & Time

Dorton House, Seal

Saturday afternoons 3-6pm from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September until Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December (12 weeks)

OR

Private School Pool, St Michael's, Otford

Thursdays after school from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September until Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December (12 weeks)

#### Details

- Aimed at children from 2½ years of age
- ASA qualified Swimming Teachers
- Non-swimmers encouraged in friendly classes to enjoy water activities
- Children will gain water confidence through play whilst developing an understanding of water safety
- Swimmers learn new skills and improve stroke techniques
- A colourful certificate and badge will be awarded when skills are achieved and as swimming improves.

Telephone 01732 834186 and speak to Sue for information and application form

Also ask for details of Adult lessons at St Michael's School on Thursday evenings between 7-9pm from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September until Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### Otford Oast W.I.

Their next meeting of the Otford Oast WI will be on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September** when the subject is 'Winter Baskets'. We all think of pots and baskets in the Summer, but George Puddefoot will today be inspiring us to replant for the winter. Come and watch the demonstration and perhaps take one home afterwards, as we will be raffling the finished items. Plants may also be for sale today. So why not go along and give it a try, you can be sure of a warm welcome. There is a free crèche at every meeting. The first visit is free, second visit £1.50 and Annual membership is £20. For more information please contact Mrs D Metcalfe on 01322 271873

### Otford Folk Dance Club



The next Thursday night special takes place in the Church Hall on **29<sup>th</sup> July** with the Odd Bodds from 8pm.

The regular 'Thursday Nights' run from 8pm in the Parish Church Hall and mostly finish at 10pm. Admission and membership is £1.50. The first visit is FREE! Including Tea / Coffee and biscuits. They have dancing to Eddie and Morris each usually taking half of the evening. But on the last Thursday in the month they are supported by visiting callers or musicians.

They welcome new members at any time. All dances are walked through first and called. Enjoyment takes first place over skill. Don't be put off, because you can't commit to regular visits. They have over 100 members, many of whom just go along from time to time to enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the Otford Club. Website <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/otfordfdc2>

### Citizens Advice Bureau

*Question* - My student daughter lives in a shared house with three others, one of them also a student, the other two working. Last year when the other people moved out they left unpaid bills, including council tax, and as the only one still living in the house, my daughter was told by the council that she was responsible for paying the whole amount - which of course she couldn't afford. It got to the point where they were threatening to take her to court to make her pay up. In the end we had to bale her out, but it's a lot of money and it seemed to be unfair that she had to pay the lot. I'm very worried that the

same thing may happen again and want to know if there's any way of safeguarding against it?

**Answer** – Students who live in shared accommodation with only other students are exempt from council tax. But until recently (in England and Wales), if anyone in the household was not, or was no longer, a student, council tax became payable on the property and then everyone living there became 'jointly and severally liable' for the council tax. This meant that each of them could be required to pay the full bill.

The good news for your daughter (and you) is that from 1<sup>st</sup> April – the start of the new council tax year – students in England and Wales are no longer 'jointly and severally liable' for council tax even if they share with non-students. This means that although your daughter may still be liable to pay some council tax (it will depend on the nature of the accommodation and who is actually liable to pay the council tax for that property) she cannot in future be pursued for the whole amount, even if others who are liable default on payment. Anyone having problems with council tax can get independent information and advice from the CAB on their liability, eligibility for council tax benefit and / or a discount, and what to do if they have difficulty paying.

To find out more contact them at The Library, Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HW. The office is open from 10am to 3pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday 10am and 1pm appointments for form filling

( Tel No: 01732 - 454443

( Fax No: 01732 - 463164

( E-mail: [7oakscab@dial.pipex.com](mailto:7oakscab@dial.pipex.com)

Web page: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)

### CAB Surgery

An adviser from CAB is at the Otford Parish Council office on the 1st Tuesday of each month between 10am and 12noon. Please use this local service. The next surgery will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> August

### Planning

The following applications were considered by the Parish Council at its meeting in July. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk or the Strategic Services Director, Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent on 01732 227000

#### a. New applications

SE/04/01462 8 Coombe Road

Double glazed white pvcu conservatory to the rear

SE/04/01321 35 Willow Park

Removal of existing fence and replace with fence in revised location

SE/04/01531 34 Greenhill Road

Demolish bungalow and erect new dwelling with attached double garage

SE/04/01519 Block1, Vestry Industrial Estate  
Amendment to car parking and turning layout including a reduction in the number of car parking spaces to 28 spaces in respect of condition 3 of SE/03/01703. Proposed addition of fire escape to building to satisfy requirements of the means of escape together with minor changes to external elevations. Minor changes to elevations permitted under SE/03/01703.

SE/04/01649 12 Hillydeal Rd

Conversion of garage to form habitable room, formation of rear bay window, new external chimney, detached single garage with new crossover and single storey front extension

#### b. Amended applications

SE/00/2739/R/5 Greatness Quarry, Farm Road Sevenoaks

Details of Enclosed Composting Scheme Pursuant to Condition 5 of SE/00/2739 (restoration of quarry by development of an Integrated Waste Management Facility).

SE/04/01068 32 Greenhill Road

Replacement dwelling

SE/04/01278 Yew Tree Cottage 48 High Street

Rear conservatory. Revisions to design of conservatory

#### c. Results Received

SE/04/00551 Land r/o 18-20 Tudor Crescent

Erection of a dwelling (revised scheme Allowed

SE/04/00885 Elidai and the Coal Yard, Station Road

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of sixteen dwellings (9 detached, 2 pairs of semi-detached and a terrace of 3) all with garaging and construction of new access road Refused

SE/04/00886 Elidai and the Coal Yard, Station Road

Demolition of existing buildings and erection of seven detached dwellings all with double garages plus construction of new access road Allowed

SE/04/01159 2 New Barn Farm Cottis, Telston Lane

Front porch extension

Refused

SE/04/01162 46a High Street

Creation of new access and dropped kerb

Allowed

SE/04/01265 10 Great Till Close

Conservatory

Allowed

SE/04/01278 Yew Tree Cottage 48 High Street

Rear conservatory

Allowed

SE/04/01341 Mayflower, 1 Great Till Close

Conservatory to rear

Allowed

SE/04/01377 62A Well Road

Rear conservatory

Allowed

